6: Tomasic E-4 (1947-1948) 1953 RF1 Great Russia RF1

a fiction. Lacking means of physical enforcement because of the lack of a centralized political system, common action could take place only among those who voluntarily agreed. But when small bands of mounted warriors imposed their rule over the multitudes of non-warlike peasantry, the power-oriented conquerors made use of the Old-Slavonic system of unanimity for purposes of regimentation and governmentalization from above. That is, they imposed a dictated consensus by means of force else the opposition of the peasant majority would soon have deprived the ruling minority of its power.

In this manner a number of band chieftains of nomadic origin ruled groupings of small peasant communities, in the form of manorial principalities. Each one of these local potentates, even though Slavicized in speech or born in mixed families, still exhibited extreme self-seeking characteristics and cherished personal power and aggrandizement above everything else, a tenet that had characterized his nomadic predecessors. Each, therefore, following steppe traditions, had a scheme of his own; each was interested primarily in accumulating riches for himself and his immediate family. In consequence, these local princes and their war bands constantly intrigued and fought among themselves. They also transferred their personal and factional strifes to the neighboring towns of burghers. In these squabbles and struggle for power and expansion, the feuding princes and fighting factions did not hesitate to call on the common enemies in their neighborhoods, such as the steppe marauders or the Viking pirates to come in and help them defeat their opponents.

It was in the course of such an internecine strife (*vsta rod na rod*) in Novgorod region in the middle of the ninth century that a band of Scandinavian merchant-pirates was called on to come and help one clique of native princes against the other.[18] These "Varangians" not only came in but stayed, founding later the Russian state in the Dnieper river basin, at that time the most important merchant thoroughfare in that part of the world. These Norse conquerors and state builders were soon assimilated by the natives. In the course of time a series of new principalities was formed and old factional bickerings and fratricidal warfare was renewed.[19]

23: Shabad N-4 (no date) 1951 R1 Soviet Union R1
Great Russia RFL

and its many branches and spurs. The large rivers handle the north-south traffic during their ice-free season. The Ob', the Irtysh, the Yenisey, and the Amur intersect the Trans-Siberian Railroad, while the Lena is connected with it by a series of good highways. The Northern Sea Route is the basic route serving the Arctic coast of Siberia. This route through the seas of the Arctic Ocean was developed as a permanent transportation route as late as the third Five-Year Plan, after a large number of polar stations reporting on weather and ice conditions had been set up along the route. Its principal ports are Novyy Port, at the mouth of the Ob' River, Igarka, Dudinka, and Ust'-Port, in the lower reaches of the Yenisey, Nordvik, at the mouth of the Khatanga River, Tiksi, near the Lena delta, Ambarchik, near the mouth of the Kolyma River, and Anadyr', at the mouth of the Anadyr' River. The principal ports along the Pacific coast of the Far East are Vladivostok, Sovetskaya Gavan', Magadan, and Petropavlovsk on Kamchatka. The highway network is especially well developed in the European section of the Russian SFSR. The roads generally run parallel to rail lines and converge at Moscow. In Siberia, highways serve to open up newly developed areas not reached by the rail network; this is particularly true of the extensive gold-mining areas of Eastern Siberia and the Far East.

The Russian SFSR exports to the other union republics: machines, steel, petroleum, lumber, paper, textiles, and grain, and imports from them pig-iron, grain, sugar, cotton, livestock, and fruits.

Due to the large number of non-Russian ethnic groups within the Russian SFSR, the union republic has been organized into a Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, in contrast to the other union republics which have a more homogeneous national composition. The Russian SFSR was organized in 1917 and became one of the original four republics which united to form the USSR in 1922. The present territorial-administrative scheme was inaugurated with the creation of the Ural Oblast in 1923. Thereafter the newly created oblasts and krays rapidly replaced the former *guberniyas*. The more advanced non-Russian ethnic groups, such as Tatars, Bashkirs, Buryat-Mongols, Yakuts, and others, were constituted into the autonomous republics which, together with the basic Russian group (73 percent of the total population), form the so-called Russian Federation, or Russian SFSR. The territory with a predominant Russian population has been divided into oblasts and krays, which are purely administrative divisions. National minorities within these divisions have their own autonomous or national units. The most